

Appl. No. 10/518,207
Amdt. Dated 10/20/2006
Reply to Office Action of 06/21/2006

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include new Figs. 8A-D and Figs. 12A-B.

Attachment: Figs. 8A-D

Figs. 12A-B

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The courtesies extended to the undersigned and the inventor during the interview of September 14, 2006 are acknowledged with appreciation. In the amended claims submitted with this response every effort has been made to fully meet the rejection entered by the Office, and to place the case in condition for allowance.

The application has been carefully reviewed and the various informalities noted by the Examiner, as well as others, have been corrected.

New drawings for Figures 8A-D and 12A-B are submitted, and new specification paragraphs have been added to correspond to the new numbering. Other minor editorial changes have been made. No new matter has been added.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 4, 6 and 9 are allowable if rewritten in independent form, as noted in the Office Action on page 6. Claim 4 has nevertheless been amended to more clearly define the invention. Applicant submits that the scope of the claim has not been materially altered.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 10-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Jacobsson reference in view of the Heijnis reference. As was discussed at the interview, neither Jacobsson nor Heijnis actually even out the variations in input tension of the moving strand, but merely add extra tension in an effort to minimize the amplitude of yarn movement resulting from relatively low tension. The video presentation viewed during the interview convincingly demonstrated this fact that

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Heijnis, in particular, could not perform this function. Alternate claim terminology was proposed at the interview, including new subparagraphs (e) and (f) specifically claiming an input strand deflector and a tension adjuster for being acted on by the strand input deflector. These amendments are reflected in amended claim 1. Applicant submits that these elements and their respective functions are not found in the prior art, in particular, the Jacobsson and Neijnis references. Neither reference is capable of reducing the output tension of the strand by an amount that is a function of the input tension in order to actually produce an even output tension.

For these reasons, applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that further issues remain for discussion, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or any underpayments which may be required for the above-referenced application to Deposit Account No. 01-0265.

Respectfully submitted,

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